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46. (New) A surface-treating support member for supporting a plurality of works, comprising an upper cage and a lower cage including a plurality of compartments, so that the cages are openable and closable in a lengthwise direction.

47. (New) A process for surface-treating a plurality of works comprising the step of surface-treating the works in a treating chamber, while rotating the works about their axes in spaced apart states, wherein said rotation of the works is conducted with the works supported by a support member rotated about its axes, said support member comprising an upper cage and a lower cage, including a plurality of compartments, so that the cages are openable and closable in a lengthwise direction.

48. (New) A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 47, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

49. (New) A process for surface-treating a plurality of works, comprising the step of surface-treating the works, while rotating them about a rotational axis in spaced-apart states, wherein said rotation of the works is carried out with the works supported by a support member rotated about a rotational axis, the support member comprising an upper cage and a lower cage including a plurality of compartments, so that the cages are openable and closable in a lengthwise direction.

In re the Rule 1.53(b) Divisional Application of U.S. Serial No. 09/407,304

Applicants: **Yoshimi TOCHISHITA, et al.**

Docket No.: **991074B**

50. (New) A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 49, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

51. (New) A process for surface-treating a plurality of works, comprising the step of surface-treating the works, while rotating them about their axes and about a rotational axis in spaced-apart states, wherein said rotation of the works about the rotational axis is carried out with the works supported by a support member, the support member comprising an upper cage and a lower cage including a plurality of compartments, so that the cages are openable and closable in a lengthwise direction.

52. (New) A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 51, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.